

ExxonMobil
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Fairfax, Virginia 22037



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Refining & Supply

April 14, 2005

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Attn: TSCA Section 8(e) Coordinator Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
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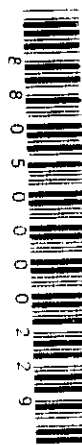
ExxonMobil Refining and Supply Company, a division of Exxon Mobil Corporation, is writing to report on information arising from the Shanghai Health Study (SHS). The Shanghai Health Study is a joint research project under the direction of principle investigators from Fudan University in Shanghai, the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, and Applied Health Sciences (an independent U.S. research firm). This study is funded by BP, ChevronTexaco, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, and Shell Chemical with additional support from Marathon.

The investigators identified a form of myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) in 23 workers who had been exposed to high concentrations of benzene (CAS RN 71-43-2) earlier in their work history. While benzene has been associated with MDS, the characterization of this disease may be different than seen in previous studies. The distinguishing features of benzene-induced MDS (BIMDS) include eosinophilic dysplasia, abnormal cytoplasmic granulation, hematophagocytosis, stromal degeneration and bone marrow hypoplasia. In a subset of cases, bone marrow dysplasia occurred in the absence of significant reductions in peripheral blood cell counts (CBC); this was frequently accompanied by clonal or oligoclonal T cell expansion and alterations in T lymphocyte subsets. Susceptibility to BIMDS appeared to be influenced by a relatively rare genetic polymorphism in the inflammatory cytokine TNF- α (-238) as this was found to be significantly increased in the BIMDS cases and suggested that an inflammatory process was involved.

If you need additional technical information please contact me or Stephen Bowes (703-846-1199). ExxonMobil will provide appropriate references to the published article when that information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Michael S. McWilliams
Manager
Environment & Global Compliance



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